CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1. A method for optimizing data transmission in a wireless digital communication system including a base station and a plurality of user equipment (UEs), the method comprising:
- (a) receiving blocks of downlink data at the base station for distribution to the plurality of UEs;
- (b) transmitting from the base station to at least one UE having a pending downlink transmission, a request for a downlink channel quality measurement;
- (c) the at least one UE measuring and reporting the downlink channel quality to the base station;
- (d) the at least one UE receiving a downlink physical channel allocation signal from the base station;
- (e) the at least one UE setting up transmission parameters based on the downlink physical channel allocation; and
- (f) the at least one UE receiving blocks of the downlink data from the base station in accordance with the downlink physical channel allocation.
- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the allocation signal indicates a particular coding rate, modulation type and at least one allocated slot.
 - 3. The method of claim 1 further including:
- (g) prioritizing transmissions to be made from the base station to respective ones of the plurality of UEs having pending downlink transmissions.
- 4. A wireless digital communication system for optimizing data transmission, the system comprising:
 - (a) a plurality of user equipment (UEs); and
 - (b) a base station in communication with the UEs, the base station further

comprising:

- (b1) means for receiving blocks of downlink data for distribution to the plurality of UEs;
- (b2) means for transmitting to at least one of the UEs having a pending downlink transmission, a request for a downlink channel quality measurement;
- (b3) means for receiving from the at least one UE having a pending downlink transmission, a report of the results of the downlink channel quality measurement;
- (b4) means for transmitting to the at least one UE having a pending downlink transmission, a downlink physical channel allocation signal; and
- (b5) means for transmitting to the at least one UE having a pending downlink transmission, blocks of the downlink data from the base station in accordance with the downlink physical channel allocation signal.
- 5. The system of claim 4 wherein the allocation signal indicates a particular coding rate, modulation type and at least one allocated slot.
 - 6. The system of claim 4 wherein the base station further includes:
 - (b6) means for prioritizing transmissions to be made to respective ones of the plurality of UEs having pending downlink transmissions.
- 7. A method for optimizing data transmission in a wireless digital communication system including a base station and a plurality of wireless devices, the method comprising:
 - (a) receiving blocks of downlink data at the base station for distribution to a plurality of wireless devices;
 - (b) transmitting from the base station to a wireless device having a pending downlink transmission, a request for a downlink channel quality measurement;
 - (c) the wireless device having a pending downlink transmission measuring and reporting the downlink channel quality to the base station;

- (d) the base station signaling a downlink physical channel allocation to the wireless device having a pending downlink transmission;
- (e) the wireless device having a pending downlink transmission setting up transmission parameters based on the downlink physical channel allocation; and
- (f) the wireless device having a pending downlink transmission receiving blocks of the downlink data from the base station in accordance with the downlink physical channel allocation.
- 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the signaled allocation indicates a particular coding rate, modulation type and at least one allocated slot.
 - 9. The method of claim 7 further including:
- (g) prioritizing transmissions to be made from the base station to respective ones of the plurality of wireless devices having pending downlink transmissions.
- 10. A method for optimizing data transmission in a wireless digital communication system including a base station and a plurality of user equipment (UEs), the method comprising:
- (a) receiving blocks of downlink data at the base station for distribution to a plurality of UEs;
- (b) sending an allocation signal indicating parameters including a particular coding rate, modulation type and at least one allocated timeslot to ones of the UEs having a pending downlink transmission;
- (c) the UEs having a pending downlink transmission setting up transmission characteristics based on the indicated parameters; and
- (d) the UEs having a pending downlink transmission receiving blocks of the downlink data from the base station in accordance with the parameters.
 - 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the blocks of data are distributed from the

base station to the UEs on a prioritized basis.

- 12. The method of claim 10 further comprising:
- (e) transmitting from the base station to the UEs having a pending downlink transmission, a request for a downlink channel quality measurement; and
- (f) the UEs measuring and reporting the downlink channel quality to the base station, wherein the UEs are prioritized based on the downlink channel quality measurements.
- 13. A wireless digital communication system for optimizing data transmission, the system comprising:
 - (a) a base station; and
- (b) a plurality of user equipment (UEs) in communication with the base station, each UE further comprising:
- (b1) means for receiving a request from the base station for a downlink channel quality measurement;
- (b2) means for measuring and reporting the results of the downlink channel quality measurement to the base station;
- (b3) means for receiving a downlink physical channel allocation signal from the base station;
- (b4) means for setting up transmission parameters based on the downlink physical channel allocation signal; and
- (b5) means for receiving blocks of the downlink data from the base station in accordance with the set transmission parameters.
- 14. The system of claim 13 wherein the allocation signal indicates a particular coding rate, modulation type and at least one allocated slot.